

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00
EB-08 /117 W

-----043996 190219Z /14

R 181500Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4222
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0344

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SS, IZ, AG, MO
SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF IRAQI SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO

REF: BAGHDAD 0091 (NOTAL)

1. IRAQI AMBASSADOR FAROUK SABRI AL KHATIB GAVE INTERVIEW TO OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP PUBLISHED JAN. 14. AL KHATIB MAINTAINED THAT IRAQ, "HAVING JUDGED THAT THE SAHARA SHOULD BE RESTORED TO MOROCCO," WOULD REMAIN LOYAL TO ITS "IRREVERSIBLE PRINCIPLES." CALLING IRAQI ATTITUDE "AUTHENTIC AND NATURAL," HE HOPED NO ONE BELIEVED IT COULD BE REVERSED. SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS COUNTRY, "WE CONSIDER THAT THE RETURN OF SAHARA TO MOROCCO IS THE RECOVERY OF A DEAR PART OF THE ARAB NATION." FURTHERMORE, "ARAB MATTERS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY ARABS."

2. SOCIALIST PARTY (USFP) SOURCES TOLD EMBOFFS JAN. 6 THAT,
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IN THE WAKE OF PARTY LEADER BOUABID'S ME MISSION A FEW DAYS EARLIER, THEY REMAINED CONVINCED THAT IRAQ HAD NOT SHIFTED ITS POLICY ON THE SAHARA, IN VIEW OF THE KURDISH PROBLEM AND LONG-STANDING IRAQI OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF MINI-STATES.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER IRAQI AMBASSADOR HERE EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MATTER. GOM

HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER BOUMEDIENE'S TRAVELS, CONVINCED THAT
THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR HIS ME STANCE AND THE TRIP WAS REALLY
TO GAIN SUPPORT ON THE SAHARA. THERE IS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AMONG
GOM FIGURES IN PRIVATE THAT THE MOROCCAN POSITION HAS SUFFERED
FROM SLIPPAGE IN SYRIAN SUPPORT.

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Message Attributes

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